



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Terunao HANAOKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2826

Application No.: 09/700,464

Examiner: Leonardo Andújar

Filed: November 15, 2000

Docket No.: 107284

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE
THEREOF, CIRCUIT BOARD, AND ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed June 3, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-24, drawn to a semiconductor device, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the Restriction Requirement is improper. Specifically, this application is a U.S. National Stage of a PCT application. Thus, a restriction can only be issued if the asserted groups of claims do not share a common unity of invention. It is submitted that all claims share the same inventive concept.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-36 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions"

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(emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 27, 2002

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